

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-12 (Canceled).

13. (Currently Amended) A filter element for filtering a fluid in a filter system comprising a cylindrical case, said filter element comprising an absorbent tissue paper material in sheet form compactly wound to form inner winding turns therein and to constitute a tubular cylinder inside said cylindrical case in a manner to partition an outer radial part from an inner radial part, wherein fluid is able to move across the filter element in a substantially centripetal direction, wherein the filter element is devoid of a central core, and wherein the inner winding turns ~~present means of preventing~~ exhibit a contour which prevents the inner winding turns from unraveling inward.

14. (Previously Added) The filter element as claimed in claim 13 wherein the tubular cylinder has a mean inside diameter greater than 1/20 of a mean outside diameter of the tubular cylinder.

15. (Previously Added) The filter element as claimed in claim 14 wherein the mean inside diameter is greater than 1/4 the mean outside diameter.

16. (Previously Added) The filter element as claimed in claim 15 wherein the mean inside diameter is between 1/3 and 1/2 the mean outside diameter.

17. (Previously Added) The filter element as claimed in any one of claims 13, 14, 15 or 16 wherein the mean inside diameter cylinder is greater than 25 mm.

18. (Previously Added) The filter element as claimed in claim 13 wherein the tubular cylinder has an inside wall which is conical or cylindrical in shape and has a circular or polygonal cross-sectional shape.

19. (Previously Added) The filter element as claimed in claim 13 wherein the filter element further comprises at least one polarizing positioning means.

20. (Previously Added) The filter element as claimed in claim 13 wherein said absorbent paper material is a strip which is a continuous single sheet wound to provide the tubular cylinder.

21. (Previously Added) The filter element as claimed in claim 13 wherein said absorbent paper material is comprised of a series of sheets which are interlaced to provide the tubular cylinder.

22. (Previously Added) The filter element as claimed in claim 13 or 20 wherein the sheet comprises several plies.

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23. (Previously Added) The filter element as claimed in claim 21 wherein each sheet of said series of sheets comprises several plies.

C) 24. (Canceled).

25. (Previously Added) The filter element as claimed in claim 13 wherein the filter system is constructed and arranged to filter automotive engine oil.

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